

without falling. The experiments, which shed light on the process of learning a complex physical activity, were made by Granville B. Johnson, director of physical education at the university.

Learning to balance in mid air is easier when fear can be eliminated, according to report of the experiments just made. In tests conducted last year, volunteers who knew nothing about the tight rope required 50 trials before they could successfully cross a bucking wire suspended six feet from the gymnasium mat. But this year, with a wire only three feet from the ground a new set of amateurs required only 38 trials.

If tight rope walking is hard to learn, it is also hard to forget.

"Men came back after one and two years absence and successfully walked the high wire the first time they made the attempt," said Prof. Johnson.

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#### PREDICTS U.S. POPULATION 255 MILLION BY YEAR 2000

Not quite two and a half times its present population or approximately 255 millions of people will be the population of the United States in the year 2000, is the estimate of Prof. Howard B. Woolston of the University of Washington. From 1660 to 1880 the rate of growth was practically constant and the population doubled every twenty-three and a half years; but since the latter date the rate of increase has declined. The present estimate is based on the assumption that conditions prevailing in the United States for the fifty years preceding the World War will not materially change, and assumes further that the food supply and vital rates will be taken care of in the economic process of national development. Professor Woolston calls attention to the fact that the type of industry practiced and the standards of living affect population growth, which thus becomes a sociological as well as a biological function and is increasingly difficult to predict with accuracy.

Professor Woolston found that areas of high per capita wealth tend also to be areas of density of population. "Evidently wealth and density are correlated," he states in his report, "for where the rate of growth for wealth has been rapid, increasing density appears to have attended it." The New England states are cited as examples. Nevada is an exception, having high per capita wealth but low population density. This is probably due to the method of exploiting new land. A few men come first and by rough extractive methods obtain much wealth; as more people come in and the wealth is subdivided, the per capita wealth decreases. A period of agricultural development follows, but as the cheap land is exhausted the people turn to the cities where under skilled management wealth is again built up. The turning point between rural and urban development is reached when the land is worth more than \$50 per acre and the country is peopled at a rate of more than eight families per square mile.

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Preservation of nearly 300 ancient monuments in England is pronounced of national importance.

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